

Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)

September 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 2025 Time: 1-3 PM	Mtg. Facilitator: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Mtg. Recorder: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Where: Microsoft Teams
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	Name	Organization and Role
X	Kelly Dougherty	Department of Health, Chair
X	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Vice Chair
X	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
X	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brother Big Sister, Member
X	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
X	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
X	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
X	Scott Pavek	Municipality Experience, Member
X	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
X	John Searles, Ph.D.	Department of Health (Retired), Member
X	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

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Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Kelly Dougherty	• VDH has a new Commissioner who will be starting on October 13th, Dr. Rick Hildebrandt. • Dr. Hildebrandt currently works at Rutland Regional Medical Center and has a strong interest in community health.
Review and Approve May and July 2025 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	• May minutes were approved as written • July minutes will be reviewed in October
SMPC Report Reminder	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	• As a reminder, the SMPC decided internally to do shorter reports every other year, but it does have the ability to include recommendations if voted on by the full council.
Report Out from Subcommittees	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	• Policy: ○ This Committee will be proposing a few recommendations to include in this year's report, in response to active legislation ○ The first will focus on bill H. 376 which speaks to increasing taxes on alcoholic beverages, which is an evidence-based prevention practice ○ The second will focus on bills S. 106 and H. 452 which is examining the legalization of psychedelic drugs. ○ Additional information about these recommendations will be provided before the October meeting for consideration. • Prevention: ○ The focus of our committee meeting was discussing as we learn about the great work happening through the VPLO and tobacco presentations, how are we weaving this information together? ○ How do we continue to use the information we are learning and keep that momentum going? This should be a focus of the SMPC as we start in 2026.
Grantee Presentation	Sara Stearns and Jessica Bickford	• Presentations can be found here: SMPC September 2025 Meeting Materials
Presentation Discussion		• Question: Is there a focus on older adults in your work? ○ Sara: Yes, we have been working to connect our agencies serving older Vermonters with resources like the Turning Point Center to ensure they have resources to best meet the

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		needs of those they are working with in regard to substances. ○ Jessica: We also have been working on messaging to older Vermonters. This focus is less on prevention, but supports on how to reduce or stop using. • An area an SMPC member noted would be interesting to hear more about is the work happening, or potential gaps of work happening, with immigrant populations. ○ There is interest throughout this work to have a better reach through translated materials and programs to best reach all people living in Vermont. ○ Given different literacy levels, videos may be a more effective ways to reach people in these communities.
Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	• Rhonda Williams • Jessica Bickford • Beth Shrader • Nicole Rau Mitiguy